



**AMERICAN  
SOCIETY FOR  
MICROBIOLOGY**

*Public and Scientific Affairs Board*

**American Society for Microbiology**

**Public Comment to CLIAC**

**on Workforce Issues**

**February 8, 2006**

Good Afternoon. My name is Dave Sewell and I am representing the American Society for Microbiology (ASM). ASM finalized its Survey of Clinical Microbiology Laboratory Workloads, Productivity Rates and Staffing Vacancies, in November, 2005. The purpose of this benchmarking study was to assist clinical microbiology laboratories in measuring themselves against peer groups and determining the level of technical skill required for present and future clinical laboratory procedures. The study also looked at vacancy rates in clinical microbiology laboratories, and the aging of the clinical laboratory workforce. The study was conducted in 2003 and is a project of the Public and Scientific Affairs Board, Committee on Professional Affairs. For those who are interested in reading the report, ASM has provided copies which are available in the back of the room; it can also be downloaded from ASM's website by going to <http://www.asm.org>.